

Finance Report

As in previous years, this report is a short introduction to the Annual Accounts of the parish, with the associated Notes, which provide the relevant facts and figures.

All receipts and payments in 2025 were recorded, and the bank account fully reconciled. There were no outstanding invoices at the year end. Moneys owed and owing in the normal course of business were recorded as Accounts Payable and Receivable respectively; details are given in the Notes to the Accounts.

After the relatively quiet financial year in 2024, finances were significantly tighter in 2025. Fortunately, the generous level of congregational giving held steady overall, but other income was reduced. Following the over-provision for recoverable tax identified in 2024, only limited provision was made for this item in 2025. Hall hire income also declined significantly. To some extent, the resultant reduction in total income has been offset in the early months of 2026 as the Skate Club has caught up on its outstanding rental payments and all tax due to the end of 2025 has been claimed. *The Bridge* magazine continued to generate a small surplus.

On the expenditure side, total costs (including Parish Share owing but not paid) increased at approximately the same rate as general inflation. This, combined with the reduction in total income, pushed the General Fund into an operating deficit of £3,135 for the year and an overall deficit of £5,294. When allowance is also made for the need to retain working funds in the bank account, it will be clear why the parish was only able to pay £20,000 of the £26,029 due in Parish Share during 2025.

The PCC has decided that mission expenditure and paying the current year's Parish Share must take priority over clearing the outstanding Share debt of £6,029. This decision has been discussed with the Diocesan Secretary, who is understanding of our concern to maintain and, if possible, develop our ministry during the period of vacancy, and who agrees that maintaining regular Share payments during the current year takes priority over using scarce financial resources to settle the debt.

Keeping church finances in some sort of order takes a lot of work. It bears repeating that the task would be impossible for me without the support I continue to receive from David McCulloch as Assistant Treasurer and Helen Davison as Parish Administrator. My most important task in this report is, as in previous years, to record my thanks for all the help that they give.

David Bennison